What is claimed is:

1. An apparatus for controlling access of an animal to an opening in which food is stored, comprising:

A. a standing surface on which the animal places at least part of its weight;

B. a chassis connected to or integral with the standing surface and supported parallel to a base, the chassis having an opening in which food can be placed;

C. a movable connection between the base and the chassis allowing the chassis to move towards and away from the base while maintaining the parallel configuration;

D. at least one door attached to the chassis by a door pivot and adapted to cover the opening in which the food is placed;

E. a lever, pivotally connected to the chassis by a first pivot, having a first arm that engages the base and a second arm that engages the door to move the door about the door pivot; and

F. a tension rod including a spring tending the pivot arm away from engagement with the door.

2. The apparatus of claim 1, further comprising a skirt depending from the standing surface and a shield rising from the standing surface to provide an opening for access to the platform.

3. The apparatus of claim 1, further comprising means for changing the tension on the tension rod.

4. A method for controlling access of an animal to an opening in which food is stored, comprising:

A. providing a platform on which the animal places its feet and having an opening through which the animal can access food;

B. providing at least one movable door for preventing access to the food;

C. providing a base parallel with the platform and to which the platform is connected, and allowing movement of the platform towards and away from the base while maintaining the parallel orientation;

D. providing a lever that engages and moves the door as a function of the distance between the platform and the base;

E. providing tension on the lever to inhibit engagement of the lever with the door; and

F. allowing an animal to stand on the platform, thereby causing the platform to move vertically towards the base if the weight of the animal is sufficient to overcome the tension, such movement rotating the lever and engaging the lever with the door to move the door.

5. The method of claim 4, wherein the door closes upon movement of the platform towards the base.

6. The method of claim 4, wherein the door opens upon movement of the platform towards the base.

7. Apparatus for controlling an animal's access to food, comprising:

A. a base;

B. a chassis having a standing surface and disposed parallel to and movable with respect to the base, the chassis having a port through which food is accessed;

C. a door for opening and/or closing the port;

D. movement means for allowing the chassis and the base to move together and apart, said movement means maintaining the parallel orientation of the chassis and base;

E. force means comprising a user-adjustable force for opposing the animal's weight; and

F. door means for opening and/or closing the door based on movement between the chassis and the base.

8. The apparatus of claim 7, wherin the movement means is parallel arms.

9. The apparatus of claim 7, wherein the force means comprises a spring.

10. The apparatus of claim 7, wherein the door means a lever pivotally attached to the chassis, the lever having a first arm that interacts with the base and a second arm that interacts the door.

11. A method for providing selective access, comprising:

A. providing (i) a chassis having (a) a platform for accepting a pressure force from an animal, (b) an access hole, and (c) a barrier removeable from and replaceable on the access hole, and (ii) a base;

B. controlling movement of the chassis towards and away from the base so as to maintain a desired orientation of the chassis and the base;

C. applying a counterforce acting between the chassis and the base to resist said pressure; and

D. mechanically transmitting the difference between the pressure force and the counterforce to remove or to replace said closure, respectively, when the pressure force exceeds the counterforce, and, respectively, replacing or removing said closure when the counterforce exceeds the pressure force.